

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

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REFERENCES

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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two reports on Czechoslovak armored personnel carriers reported to have been supplied to the Czechoslovak Army in 1953, 1954, and 1955.

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1. Until 1953 the Czechoslovak Army had only a small number of armored carriers and light, combat, tracked armored vehicles; these were all a war-booty of German origin. During 1953 and especially in 1954, new Czechoslovak-made armored cars made their appearance. About 30 of them arrived in Opava. They were an improved version of the old German "Panzerwirtschaftswagen" and allegedly they were produced by Lenin Works in Pilsen.

2. The armored carriers when leaving barracks for field exercise were always observed as a part of the equipment of a tank unit.

3. Legend for the sketch

1. Track, 30 cm wide.

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2. 

3. Drive sprocket wheel and idler; both wheels cogged, about 30 cm in diameter.

4. Front wheels with full rubber tires.

5. Carrier body, slanted walls, widest in the middle, double walls, steel about 4 mm thick with a 4-cm gap between the walls. Open on the top; the crew climbs in over the top.

6. Observation apertures.

7. Gun; caliber about 20 mm, the length of the barrel about 2 m. The gun can be moved both vertically and horizontally.

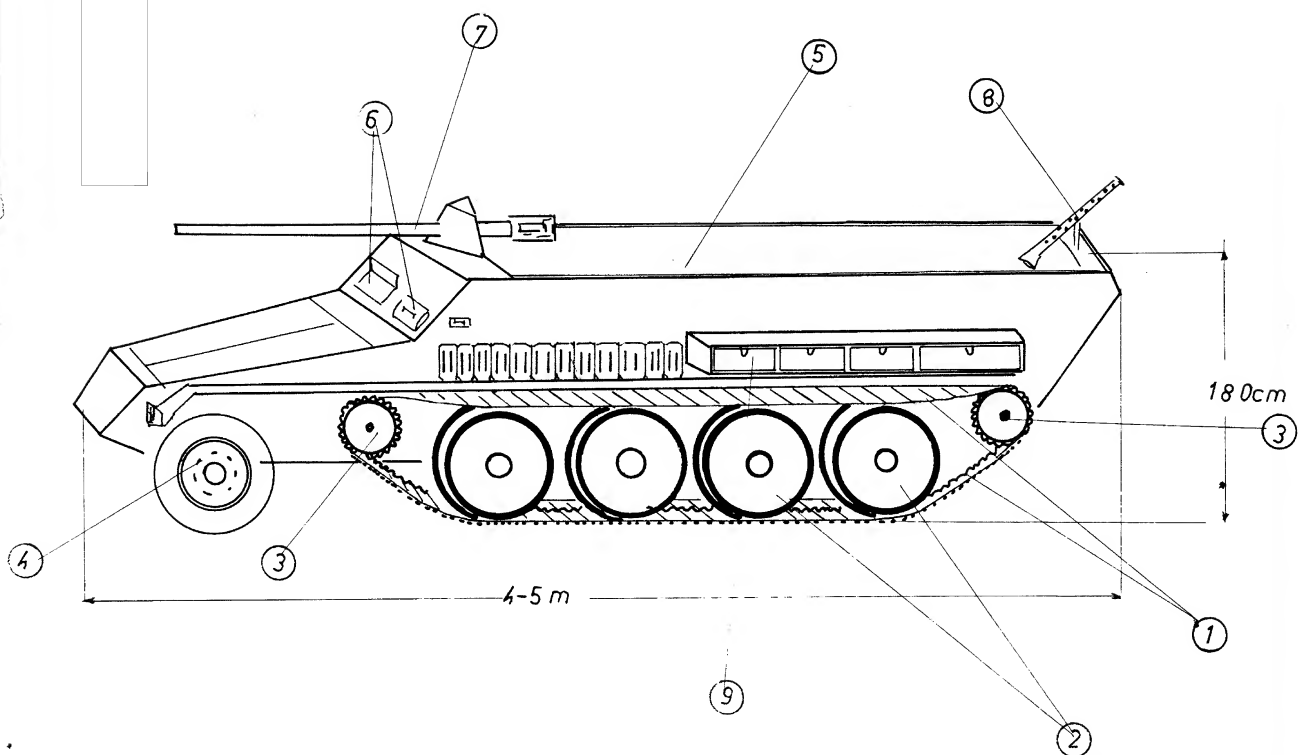
8. Light machine gun.

9. Spare track links and tool boxes, auxiliary equipment, etc.

4. The carrier equipped with a gun carries a crew of six and is used as a light combat support vehicle; the gun can be replaced by a light machine gun and then the carrier is used for personnel transportation with a capacity of 12 men.

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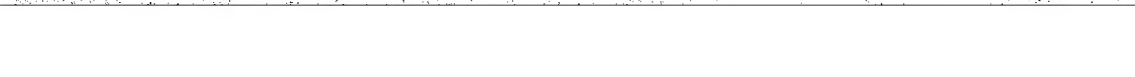
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1. In 1954 and in 1955 new armored carriers of Czechoslovak make but modelled on obsolete German "Schuetzenpanzerwagen" arrived in the Jaselske Barracks in Opava. About 16 ~~7~~ 20 of these carriers were observed. Their upper part was similar to that of the new model of the former "Panzermanschaftwagen". The main difference was in the suspension assembly.

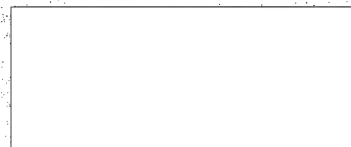
2. Legend for the sketch

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1. Track, about 30 cm wide.

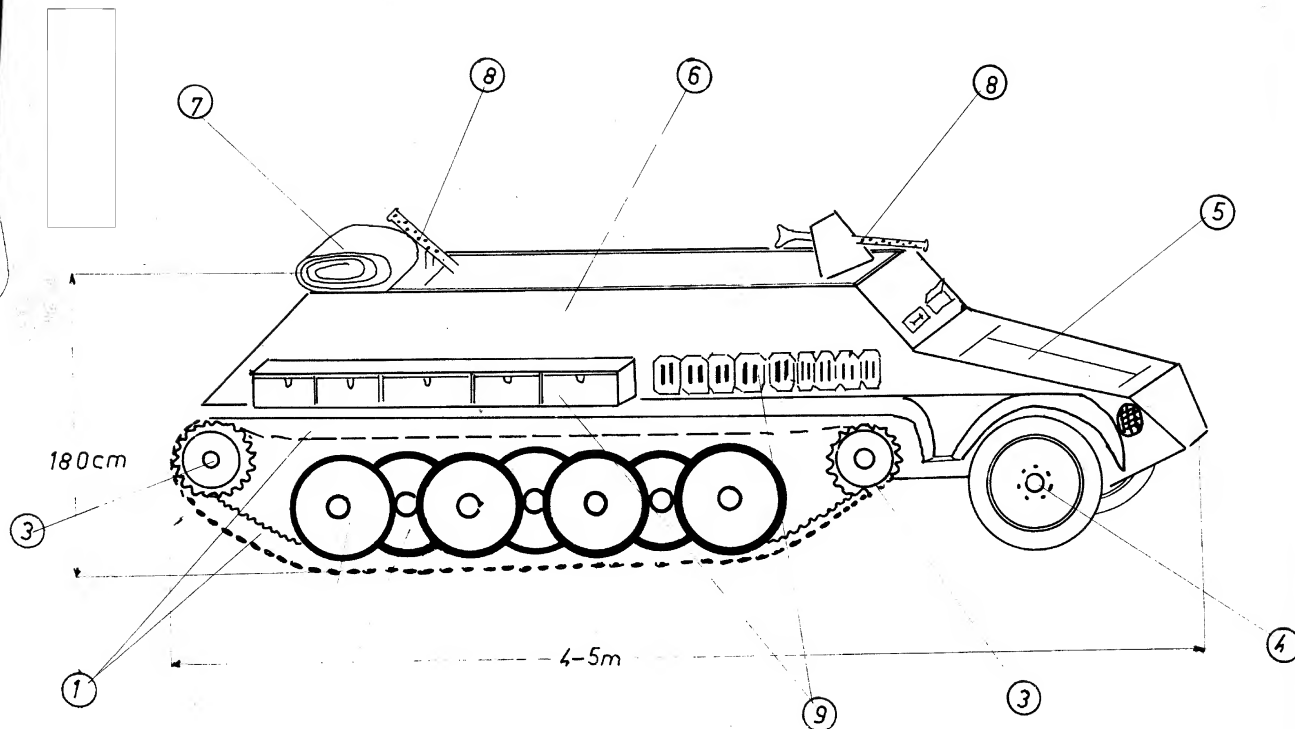


3. Drive sprocket wheel and idler; both wheels cogged, about 30 cm in diameter.
4. Front wheel, about 80 cm in diameter, full rubber tires.
5. Engine cover.
6. Carrier steel body; double walls, 4-mm thick, 4 cm apart.
7. Tarpaulin cover which can be drawn over the open part of the carrier body.
8. Two light machine guns; the front LMG is mounted on a ball-and-socket joint and has a freedom of both horizontal and vertical movements, the rear LMG is fixed on a bipod.
9. Spare links for the tracks, tool boxes and other auxiliary equipment.
3. The carrier has a combat crew of five; its carrying capacity is 12 men.



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